

Colectomy

The surgical removal of your colon is called a colectomy. This is a large tubelike organ near the end of your digestive system often referred to as the large intestine. This procedure is done to prevent or treat disease processes and conditions which negatively affect the colon.

Variations of colectomy

- **Partial colectomy:** Only a section of the colon is removed.
- **Total colectomy:** The colon is entirely removed.
- **Hemicolectomy:** The right and left portion is removed.
- **Proctocolectomy:** Colon and the rectum are removed.

Surgical risk factors

- Post-surgical blood clots
- Bleeding and infection
- Damage to the surrounding organs
- The need for additional surgery

Treatment

Colectomies may be done open or laparoscopically. The treatment plan will be based on the individuals needs and circumstances.

- **Open:** This method includes a larger incision across your abdomen to gain access to the colon.
- **Laparoscopically:** This is a minimally invasive technique. Your surgeon will make several small incisions and utilize a camera and a robot to perform the operation.

Diet and nutritional adjustments and supplementation may be required. Permanent or temporary changes in your bowel elimination may be necessary, such as a colostomy or ileostomy.

Recovery period

Extent and method chosen for surgery will largely affect your recovery period. You will require healing time regardless of the circumstances of the operation. Our healthcare team will work closely with you to help guide you through your recovery period.